

**Grace United Methodist Church – Valley Stream
Order of Worship**

**3rd Sunday in Lent
March 20, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

In-person in the sanctuary and via Zoom and Facebook

Greeting

Call to Worship

L: O God, my God, we seek you.

P: Our souls thirst for you.

L: Our spirits long for you,

P: for we are parched and weary in these desert times, these wilderness places.

L: But your love, O God, is better even than life.

P: Our words will praise you, our actions bless you.

L: Let us seek the Lord where God may be found.

P: Call upon the Holy One, who is near.

L: We will bless you as long as we live.

P: We will lift up our hands and call on your name. (AWA, 2022)

Opening Voluntary – “Prelude” by A. B. Mann

Choral Introit

Opening Prayer

Holy One, when we are alone in the desert, wandering through the wilderness, we call to you, for you are our help. Our souls cling to you. Come, God, and hold us up. Come, bring your presence and fill us with your peace. In the shadow of your wings, we will sing for joy. Amen. (AWA, 2022)

Opening Hymn #121 - "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy, we long to come when you call, yet often do not. When we are most alone, we fail to turn to you. When we are most afraid, we do not always think we can turn to you. When we are lost, hurting, and in pain, we fail to realize how much we suffer. We refuse to ask for help. We lash out at others. We numb our hearts. We hide. Forgive us. But you, O God, are faithful. You see us and know us and love us as we are. In times of trial, you show us the way through. Receive us once more, and have mercy on us. As we seek your presence, help us place our trust in the grace of your heart, and help us begin again. Amen. (AWA, 2022)

Words of Assurance

Anything we have done, God knows already. Anything we have hidden, God has already seen. God's love for us and grace to us are higher than we have imagined, deeper than we have guessed. Before we have asked, God's mercies are already given. For God does not waste our struggles, but uses them to grow joy. (AWA, 2022)

Westminster Ringers

"Immortal, Invisible" a Welsh Hymn Melody arr. by Donald E. Allured

Scriptures

Old Testament – Poetry – Psalm 63:1-8

(Comfort and Assurance of God's Presence)

1 O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. **2** So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. **3** Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. **4** So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. **5** My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips **6** when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; **7** for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. **8** My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

New Testament – Gospel – Luke 13:1-9 (Repent or Perish)

1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. **4** Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." **6** Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. **7** So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" **8** He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. **9** If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."
"

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn before Message #378 - "Amazing Grace"

Message Pastor Nation

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer and Choral Response

Junior Choir - "We Are the Church" by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Let us share Christ's peace with one another. For we are called to feed one another as God has fed us. So shall our lives bear fruit for all to share. (AWA, 2022)

Invitation to Tithes and Offering

Knowing how much God has given us, let us come with grateful hearts to offer our tithes and our gifts. (AWA, 2022)

Offering Selection – "My Way Is Not His Way"

by W. & D. Hannibal, arr. M. McDonald

Doxology - Hymn #95 - Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn #519 - "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Dismissal with Blessing

Closing Voluntary – “Andante In F minor” by E. L. Ashford

Our **Liturgist** is Eleanor Phillip and our **Reader** is Naomi Brown.

Prayer List. ♦♥Mason Baker (cousin of Debbie Nicosia), ♥Sherry Schutt (niece of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Thornton Stone (father of Brian Stone), ♥People of Ukraine, ♥Roael Cooke (brother-in-law of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Ramona Morrison (daughter of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Averil Wallace (relative of Earl Boyd), ♥Neil Allen (son-in-law of Margo and Vincent Morrison), ♥Pastor Nation, ♥Walter McKnight, ♥Coleen Murray, ♥Velda Mathis (sister-in-law of Marianne Pike), ♥Maria Smith (mother of Rebecca Heyward), ♥Kenneth Richardson, ♥Kris Thomsen (cousin of Debbielee Thomsen), ♥Nancy Roman (friend of Sing Larson), Emilia Peeples (granddaughter of Debbie and Joe Nicosia), ♥Alice Shubrick (friend of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Susan Short and her daughter ♥Sarah Short (friends of Nancy Wasek), ♥Faith Pollack (friend of Sing Larson), ♥Pearl Hamilton, ♥Charles Zipperlen, ♥Christine Doeringer, ♥Anne Mahoney, ♥Douglas Hayes, ♥Ulysses Ceazer (friend of Svetlana Hamlet), ♥Hensbert Neville Brooks (husband of Mahalia Brooks), ♥Kay Hartmann, ♥All United Methodist Women in Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes, ♥Shirley Shivrattan-Dookhi, ♥Juliana Bonds (sister of Eleanor Phillip), ♥Maudlyn and Keible Scarlett, ♥Amy Cooke (sister of Pearl Hamilton), ♥Bob von Schmid (son-in-law of Adam and Christine Doeringer), ♥Kenneth Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Michael Kurz (son of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Airman Jayvee Kurz (grandson of Lenore and Manny Kurz), ♥Elaine Treske, ♥Castells Family (family of Elaine Treske), ♥Margo and Vincent Morrison, ♥Cyril (friend of Pat Eshun), ♥Samuel A. Dorsey (father of David A. Dorsey), ♥David Biegler, ♥Iris Molina, ♥Olga Molina (sister of Iris Molina), ♥Everol Palmer (son of Enid Simpson), ♥Evelyn Neber (friend of

Elaine Treske), ♥Bill Hammen (brother of Edie Zipperlen), ♥Rondolph Ives (brother of Margo Morrison), ♥Health care workers fighting the Viruses, those who are suffering, and grieving families. **Note.** Prayer List names will continue to be listed for three weeks. After that period of time, the names will be removed unless you call us with current information. † - Death in family, ♦ - New entry